

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

All claims and their status are listed below.

1-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 44, wherein the study materials presented have at least one level of difficulty, and wherein the time period set is based on the at least one level of difficulty of the study materials.

40. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 44, wherein the study materials presented include content, wherein the time period set is based on the content of the study materials, and wherein the method waits for the user to enter the input via a keyboard or position-pointing device.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises adjusting an audio effect.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises adjusting a visual effect.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a first window of a computer, where the computer also has a second window;

waiting for the user to enter an input to the first window of the computer, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive an input from the user into the first window of the computer within a time period, when there is one or more inputs by the user to the second window of the computer during the time period, which is indicative of a reduction in the user's level of concentration, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to attempt to improve the user's concentration in learning the subject,
wherein the method further comprises setting the time period.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises presenting a question.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the question is not on the subject of the study materials.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the user's reply to the question is not used to assess the user's understanding in the subject.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises increasing a stimulation level of the study materials.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises switching to a different set of study materials, not the study materials previously planned for the user on the subject if an input is received from the user.

52-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 44, wherein the study materials presented have at least one level of difficulty,

wherein the time period set is based on the at least one level of difficulty of the study materials, and

wherein the input that the method is waiting for the user to enter is a physical input from the user to the computer.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56,
wherein the time period also depends on a reference response time of the user,
and

wherein the reference response time is determined based on a previous session where study materials on a subject were presented to the user via a computer.

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 44,
wherein adjusting the study materials comprises changing a pace of the presentation of the materials.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44 further comprising assessing the user's understanding in the subject.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises presenting a question.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59 wherein changing the pace of the presentation of the materials includes reducing the speed of presentation of the materials.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59 wherein adjusting the study materials comprises switching to a different set of study materials, not the study materials previously planned for the user on the subject if an input is received from the user.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44 further comprising providing the user with options for the user to determine how to proceed in the learning process, upon failure to receive an input from the user into the first window of the computer within the time period.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the question is displayed on a screen and is orally presented.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising praising the user if the answer to the question is correct.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising presenting study materials related to the question to help the user learn the subject if the answer to the question is not correct.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising presenting the study materials again to help the user learn the subject if the answer to the question is not correct.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45,
wherein the study materials presented have at least one difficulty level, and
wherein the method further comprises presenting study materials with a difficulty level lower than the at least one difficulty level to help the user learn the subject if the answer to the question is not correct.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein whether the answer to the question is correct or not does not affect study materials to be presented to the user.

71. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented method for assisting a user to learn a subject, the method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a first window of a computing device, where the computing device also has a second window;

monitoring an amount of time to receive an input from the user to the first window; and

with no input from the user into the first window within a time period, when there is one or more inputs by the user to the second window during the time period, adjusting the study materials for presentation to the user on the subject,

wherein adjusting the study materials comprises changing a pace of the presentation of the materials.

72. (Original) The method of claim 71,

wherein the study materials presented have at least one level of difficulty, and

wherein the time period depends on the at least one level of difficulty of the study materials.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein adjusting the study materials comprises presenting a question.

74. (Original) The method of claim 73, wherein adjusting the study materials comprises providing the user with options for the user to determine how to proceed in the learning process.

75. (Original) The method of claim 74 further comprising assessing the user's understanding in the subject.

76. (Original) The method of claim 64,

wherein the study materials presented have at least one level of difficulty, and

wherein the time period depends on the at least one level of difficulty of the study materials.

77. (Original) The method of claim 64,

wherein the time period depends on a reference response time of the user, and
wherein the reference response time is determined based on a previous session
where study materials on a subject were presented to the user via a computer.

78. (New) A computer-readable medium containing instruction for controlling a computing device to assist a user to learn a subject by a method comprising:

presenting study materials on the subject to the user via a first window of a computing device, where the computing device also has a second window;

waiting for the user to enter an input to the first window of the computing device, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive an input from the user into the first window of the computing device within a time period, when there is one or more inputs by the user to the second window of the computing device during the time period, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to help the user learn the subject,

wherein the method further comprises setting the time period.

79. (New) A computer-implemented method to assist a user to learn a subject comprising:

providing study materials on the subject to be presented to the user via a first window of a computing device, where the computing device also has a second window;

waiting for the user to enter an input to the first window of the computing device, with the input being in response to the study materials; and

upon failure to receive an input from the user into the first window of the computing device within a time period, when there is one or more inputs by the user to the second window of the computing device during the time period, adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject to help the user learn the subject,

wherein the method further comprises setting the time period.

80. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 79 further comprising monitoring the user's input for a duration of time to determine the user's attention to the study materials presented over time.

81. (New) A computer-implemented method to assist a user to learn a subject comprising:

causing study materials on the subject to be presented to the user via a computing device that includes a focus window and at least one window that is not a focus window; and

monitoring at least two areas to determine the user's attention to the study materials, wherein one area relates to whether the study materials are in the focus window, and another area relates to the user's input into the computing device.

82. (New) A method as recited in claim 81 further comprising adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject in view of the determination of the user's attention to the study materials.

83. (New) A method as recited in claim 81 further comprising adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject if the determination is indicative of the user's attention to the study materials dropping below a specified level.

84. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 81 wherein the user's input is monitored for a duration of time to determine the user's attention to the study materials presented over time.

85. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 81 wherein the speed of the user's input into the computing device is monitored to determine the user's attention to the study materials.

86. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 81 wherein the user's input is monitored to determine the user's attention to the study materials, and the user's input being monitored is via a position-pointing device.

87. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 81 wherein the user's input is monitored to determine the user's attention to the study materials, and the user's input being monitored is in response to the study materials presented.

88. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 81 further comprising providing an indication of the level of user's attention to the study materials.

89. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 82, wherein:
the user's input is monitored for a duration of time to determine the user's attention to the study materials presented over time, and
the adjusting comprises adjusting the study materials for presentation on the subject if the determination is indicative of the user's attention to the study materials dropping below a specified level.

90. (New) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 89, wherein the user's input being monitored is in response to the study materials presented.